Volume 17 No. 3 July 2006

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

What are you paying for at Ralph's?

Janet Blanding

The Suppression of Women's Rights. Ralph's and Bayview shoppers are paying to support a backwards attitude towards women's, and everyone's, reproductive rights. Not content to merely keep the condoms under lock and key, Ralph's Thriftway is refusing to stock emergency contraception. Initially represented to several community members as a business decision, Kevin Stormans, vice president of Stormans Incorporated, changed his story for media interviews with The Olympian and Seattle television stations by calling this policy a "moral" decision. He characterizes it as an issue arising out of when one believes life begins. He clearly has a mistaken understanding of what emergency contraception is and does, along the lines of Christian extremists' intentional mischaracterization of it. Plan B is not an abortifacient; it does not dislodge an established pregnancy. There is not any clear medical evidence to suggest that Plan B prevents a fertilized egg from implanting. Plan B works primarily by inhibiting fertilization, as conception often occurs when an egg is released after sexual intercourse. But science is irrelevant to those whose minds are morally entrenched. Evangelical Christian extremists are encouraged to spread their faith in whatever "spheres of influence" they may have, including places of business, church, families, governments, education, media and healthcare.

The Stormans family is forcing its customers to swallow its evangelical morality by working their spheres of influence in limiting customer choice in the pharmacy. In order to maintain a pharmacy license, pharmacies need to comply with state regulations and stock medications considered necessary to the population they serve. Stormans is banking on the proposed code drafted by the Board of Pharmacy to protect them from the repercussions of refusing to stock Plan B. On June 1, 2006, the Board of Pharmacy drafted a proposed WAC that would allow individual pharmacists to refuse to fill any prescription for no better reason than they just don't feel like it. It's no secret that limiting access to emergency contraception (EC) is on the conservative agenda, but this draft code is so sloppily written that it will allow a pharmacist to refuse to fill legal prescriptions for just about anything; it opens the door to refusal to fill AIDS drugs, anti-depressants, painkillers, pregnancy vitamins for unwed mothers – any legitimate prescription that a pharmacy objects to filling for any reason whatsoever. It allows for a horrible breach in the relationship between physician and patient.

The existing WAC that requires a pharmacy to stock all medications commonly prescribed to the population it serves remains in place. An earlier draft code addressing the pharmacist refusal issue was revised and a provision which specified that pharmacies must be adequately stocked was stricken because, according to Pharmacy Board member Donna Dockter, it was covered by existing code and was therefore "redundant." Obviously, this loophole created by the slipshod, hasty process on June 1 is being exploited by at least one grocer and pharmacy owner with a moralistic bent. The public will be allowed to comment on this proposed code before it is adopted at a hearing in Kent on August 31.

The Stormans family is forcing its customers to swallow its evangelical morality by working their spheres of influence in limiting customer choice in the pharmacy.

▸ **Boycott** continued on page 9

A history of military resistance and peace movement support for resisters

Zoltan Grossman

The public refusals at Fort Lewis of Army 1st Lt. Ehren Watada, Sgt. Kevin Benderman and Spc. Suzanne Swift to deploy to Iraq are the most recent chapter of a long and noble history of resistance within the U.S. military. To understand this history, and where it might lead, it helps to see how resistance varies strongly according to rank, class and race, and how difficult it is for resisters to express their patriotic viewpoints alone, without support from the larger peace movement.

Dissent from soldiers during foreign interventions has been reported throughout U.S. history, such as in Mexico in the 1840s and the Philippines in the 1900s. Even during World War II, African American rebellions against internal racism shook the military, and eventually forced unit desegregation. After the war ended in 1945, soldiers and sailors demanded a postwar demobilization and tickets home. Starting in Manila, they formed a huge and successful movement that may have prevented a U.S. intervention against the Chinese Revolution later in the decade, though did not prevent the Korean War of the 1950s.

During the Vietnam War, the military ranks carried out mass resistance on bases and ships in Southeast Asia, the Pacific, U.S. and Europe. Military resistance was instrumental in ending the war by making the ranks politically unreliable. This history is well documented in *Soldiers in Revolt,* by David Cortright. Servicemen and women were heavily influenced by the antiwar and African American liberation movements back home, as well as by personal contact with Vietnamese civilians. But this resistance took years to develop after the initial deployments in 1960, not catching fire until after the 1968 Tet Offensive showed that the war was unwinable.

. . .disobedience was in fact greatest among enlistees, who had more of a working-class background, or enlisted out of patriotism and expected more out of the service.

Personnel in all service branches carried out explicitly political actions—signing antiwar petitions, wearing buttons and patches, disobeying illegal orders, avoiding battles, passing information to the peace movement, and carrying out strikes, sit-ins, and rebellions, as well as sabotage of equipment. The breakdown in discipline was evidenced by high levels of internal organizing, racial conflict, drug use, desertion, and being absent without leave (AWOL). The sources of the rebellions were as much tied to domestic racism as to overseas militarism.

At one time in 1972, three aircraft carriers on duty in the Western Pacific (off Vietnam) were simultaneously put out of commission—one by an African American uprising on board, and two

▸ **Resistance** continued on page 4

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in **Works In Progress***, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *wip@zhonka.net* or mail to ***Works In Progress***, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

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The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* ***WIP*** *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* ***WIP*** *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. ***WIP*** is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

On the cover
Thank you, Lt. Watada photo by Carrie Lybecker
See stories on pages 1, 4, and 5.

On page one
Boycott Ralph's and Bayview graphic by Pat Tassoni

Back cover
Refuse Illegal War graphic by Melissa Roberts

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline: July 21

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upcoming events

Unity in the Community Festival
Sunday, July 2, 10am – 5pm at Sylvester Park

Unity in the Community Festival will be a family-friendly event featuring speakers, music, dance performance, spoken word performance, food booths and kid's activities. It is intended to celebrate the broad diversity of our community and to encourage unity in the face of hate groups which seek to divide us.

Please note the actual National Socialist Movement (Nazi) rally will be held the following day, July 3,on the State Capital Steps. This event is intended to be entirely separate from that event.

For more info please email us at:
info@olympiaunityinthecommunity.org

Other Pro-Unity/ Anti-Hate events:

Anti-Oppression Workshop
Saturday, July 1, 12 pm - 4 pm at the Olympia Free School

Compassionate Communicate Workshop
Saturday, July 1, 5:30 - 8:30 pm at the Olmypia Free School

Counter Demonstration Against NSM
Monday, July 3, at 1:30 pm on the Capitol Campus Steps
Bring noise makers, costumes, flags, and your sense of justice and fun. ("Nazi" clowns and peace-keepers meet at in the visitors parking lot at 1 pm)

Vigil Against Hate and Violence
Monday, July 3, at 8pm on the Capitol Campus in front of Tivoli Fountain

Alliance for Democracy Movie Night
The Corporation
Sunday, July 2, at 6:00 pm at 300-5th Avenue (Traditions Fair Trade Café).

The Corporation is a documentary which explores the nature and spectacular rise of the dominant institution of our time. Footage from pop culture, advertising, TV news, and corporate propaganda illuminate the corporation's grip on our lives.

Taking its legal status as a "person" to its logical conclusion, the film puts the corporation on the psychiatrist's couch to ask "What kind of person is it?" Provoking, witty, sweepingly informative, The Corporation includes forty interviews with corporate insiders and critics plus true confessions, case studies and strategies for change.

Discussion follows the film. Free and open to all-sliding-scale donations accepted ($5 - $25)

Contact Alliance for Democracy:
www.SoundDemocracy.org

Know All You Can Know Summer Camp:
"Students, not Soldiers"
August 18 - 20

Know All You Can Know is a program to inform high school students about militarism and ongoing war in the Middle East. Presented by a group of experienced activists, most of them young, his learning experience will give students confidence to make difficult decisions about their involvement in war.

Students will:
- Develop planning skills
- Practice organizing skills
- Learn leadership/communication.

Events include music, films, training in media skills, overview of military recruitment, discussion of what happens to soldiers during and after service.

There is a modest fee to attend camp; scholarships are available. For further information or details, including agenda, and registration forms, please contact Molly Gibbs at kayck@olywa.net.

Spontaneous Nazi confrontation

Peter Bohmer

On Sunday, June 18, I was in downtown Olympia from just before noon until a little past 1:00 when the five NSM members left. The five NSM members arrived today, June 18th, at about 11:15 A.M. by King Solomon's Reef restaurant, downtown on 4th. I think they leafletted some neighborhoods in Olympia earlier. When I got downtown, the neonazis were at 5th and Capitol. They were at the outskirts of an ongoing street fair in uniform and with a Nazi flag.

> It is important to show the NSM that their message of hate is not welcome in Olympia.

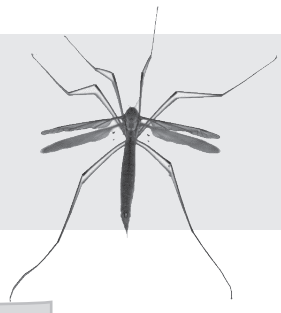
Eventually about 20 people, 1/2 of whom I didn't know, joined together and told the neo-Nazis their message of hate was unwelcome in Olympia and anywhere. The five NSM members left a little after 1:00 P.M., from where they were parked, which was 5th and Franklin. They wanted to provoke a fight and people got in their face but didn't swing at them. Some of the people who were verbally the most aggressive,challenging the NSM 5 are street youth who the Nazis are trying to recruit. There were a few police watching from afar but the NSM and us were within a few feet of each other.

We also talked to all passersby about who NSM was, and why we were opposing their anti-immigrant,anti-Black, anti-Jewish anti-Gay and Lesbian, anti-disabled, anti "race-Mixing" message. They, the NSM, were particularly hateful towards African-Americans. Solidarity in action with African-Americans and the African-American community here is especially important if we are serious about working for justice.

We said to people walking by and to the NSM that they, the Nazis, were scapegoating those with the least power in this society and this would not be tolerated. I think our talking to many people walking and driving by was very effective–many, many people listened and we had good discussions with them. We also told passersby about the July 2nd rally at Sylvester Park and the Monday, July 3rd, counter-demonstration at the Capitol. It is too bad we didn't have leaflets.

Of all the passersby, and they were numerous, only one gave the NSM a thumbs up sign when he walked by. Possibly because of our presence, he didn't stop to talk to them.

Lots of people also thanked us for challenging the NSM, including a few World War II vets. Others, who were equally anti-Nazi thought we should just ignore them. I understand that position but I want to especially thank those who spoke up and acted. It is important to show the NSM that their message of hate is not welcome in Olympia.



July 2006

The Pentagon's New Manhattan Project

In just a few years, US forces will be able to deal out death, not at the squeeze of a trigger or even the push of a button, but with no human intervention whatsoever. . .This is no geeky fantasy. Much of the hardware and software already exists and the race to produce the rest is on such a scale that US officials are calling it the "new Manhattan Project". Hundreds of research projects are under way at American universities and defense companies, backed by billions of dollars, and Donald Rumsfeld's department of defense is determined to deliver as soon as possible. Stephen Graham

Combat Zones That See: tiny cameras scattered across cities with wireless communication software to link their data.

Smart Dust: sensors the size of matchboxes which detect heat, light, movement or sound

micro-aircraft: weigh few grams each, imitate birds and insects, and carry sensor equipment into specific buildings or rooms.

"X-ray eye": sensors that can see through concrete, locating people and weapons inside buildings.

Human ID at a Distance: software that can identify individual people from scans of their faces, their manner of walking or even their smell, and then track them anywhere they go.

Digitized cities: simulated in 3-D includes interiors of buildings, cellars, sewers as well as moving vehicles, people, and their daily rhythms: rush hours, lunch breaks, church, etc.

real time soldiers/commanders with hand-held computers: purpose is to use machines where possible because they are better equipped to process and make use of the vast amount of data.

Predator: (Already operational) "piloted" by CIA operators from screens in Florida, unmanned drone planes have been responsible for at least 80 assassination raids in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and Pakistan (killing many civilians as well)

robot warriors: one can return fire instantly to within a meter from which its sensors have detected a gunshot. "Anyone who would shoot at our forces would die. Before he can drop that weapon and run, he's probably already dead."

Integrated Sensor is Structure: "huge, unmanned communications and surveillance airships that will loiter above target areas at an altitude of 70,000 feet providing continuous and detailed coverage over a whole city for a year or more."

America's robot army by Stephen Graham, published in the newstatesman.com, 12th June 2006

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
The Plan is for the United States to rule the world. The overt theme is unilateralism, but it is ultimately a story of domination. It calls for the United States to maintain its overwhelming military superiority and prevent new rivals from rising up to challenge it on the world stage. It calls for dominion over friends and enemies alike. It says not that the United States must be more powerful, or most powerful, but that it must be absolutely powerful. David Armstrong, Harper's Magazine, Oct 2002						**1** **2005:** Sandra Day O'Connor, 1st woman on Supreme Court, announces retirement
2 **2005:** 200,000 in Edinburgh Scotland demand end to abject poverty around world	**3** **2004:** 9-year-old Palestinian standing by his home killed by Israeli machine gun fire	**4** **2005:** 3 studies show lots of TV viewing lowers children's educational performance	**5** **2004:** US drops 2 ton bomb on Fallujah home killing at least 10; US death toll in Iraq: 858	**6** **2005**: Judge sends Judith Miller to jail **2005:** Sharon speeds up West Bank Wall plan	**7** **2004:** Bush questions Edwards' qualifications since Edwards has little national experience	**8** **2005:** FDA warns of risk of sudden blindness in one eye with Viagra use
9 **2004:** International court of Justice condemns Israel's occupation policies	**10** **2005:** 1000s protest site of planned new headquarters for US military in S Korea	**11** **2005:** N Korea says if the US were not a threat then it would not need nuclear weapons	**12** **2004:** Rep Adam Smith says he made a mistake by not voting to change part of the Patriot Act	**13** **2005:** Hillary Clinton and others call for increase in the size of the military by 80,000	**14** **2005:** Study reveals praying for someone who undergoes risky surgery has no effect	**15** **2005:** US District Court judge strikes down WA's new 'top two' primary system
16 **2005:** Seymour Hersh reveals Bush covertly influenced Iraqi election	**17** **2005:** Justice Dept acknowledges FBI has 1000s of pages on advocacy groups	**18** **2003:** Dept of Ed's new formula for financial need will cut 84,000 college students	**19** **2005:** Pentagon warns Congress of China's growing military might and quest for power	**20** **2005:** Canada becomes the fourth nation to grant full legal rights to same-sex couples	**21** **2005:** Cuba detainees go on hunger strike **2005:** Pentagon wants recruitment age to 42	**22** **1931:** Moratorium on taxes put into effect in KS to help distressed farmers in the state
23 **1948:** Progressive Party convention forces Dems to scramble for Black vote	**24** **1847:** Mormons arrive at Salt Lake **1937:** Alabama frees 5 in the Scottsboro case	**25** **2005:** White House won't release John Robert's documents citing ex. privilege	**26** **2005:** 100s protest outside of US Afghan military base chanting "Die America!"	**27** **2004:** EPA: 10% of Superfund sites may still contaminate people and groundwater	**28** **2005:** Scientists say tuna, marlin, swordfish, other sea predators declined up to 50%	**29** **2005:** Senate passes bill protecting gun makers for weapons in crime lawsuits
30 **2005:** Study reveals only 8% of guests on major Sunday morning talk shows are Black	**31** **2003:** Israel to expand Gaza settlement, opens bidding on contracts to build 22 new homes	These technologies further blur the line between war and entertainment. Already, games featuring urban warfare in digitized Arab cities are everyday suburban entertainment - some are produced by the US forces themselves, while a firm called Kuma Reality offers games refreshed weekly to allow players to simulate participation in fighting in Iraq almost as it is happening in the real world. Stephen Graham				

June 25, 2006 -- Olympians, joined by Lt. Watada's parents, gathered near Heritage Park to express support for Lt. Watada. Photo by Carrie Lybecker.

▸ **Resistance** continued from page 1

by internal sabotage. The U.S. mining of North Vietnamese harbors later that year was frustrated by the defusing of many ship mines by Naval Magazine personnel at Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines. Some GIs refused to be deployed to Vietnam, including six at Fort Lewis in 1970. The "Fort Lewis Six" were beaten in the stockade, and sentenced to 1-2 years, creating a wave of local support for GI dissenters. (The support went both ways, when Native American soldiers organized to support and protect treaty rights activists on rivers next to the base.)

While some GIs publicly resisted as individuals, or applied for Conscientious Objector status, most carried out their resistance in a more collective, quiet or surreptitious manner, slowing down the war machine by delaying and undermining their own mission (as anyone who has worked at a crappy job knows how to do). Some GIs sent out on patrol in Vietnam, for example, would simply have a little party, and later return to base with lurid accounts of encounters with the rebels.

U.S. military resistance was not simply sparked by the period of the Vietnam War and the military draft. Cortright provides evidence that disobedience was in fact greatest not among draftees, but among enlistees, who had more of a working-class background, or enlisted out of patriotism and expected more out of the service. Selective Service was not an equal opportunity institution, since white and middle-class youth had social advantages to avoid the draft, just as they have had in the recruitment-based "poverty draft" since Vietnam.

Radicalism within the ranks led the Reagan-Bush Administration in the 1980s to turn increasingly toward air war strategies, proxy armies, and more capital-intensive, high-tech weapons systems which only smaller skilled units could operate. The Navy restricted sailors' access to parts of the ship where it might be "threatened from within…especially during times of great international tension." Nevertheless, the unwillingness of the ranks to fight in another Vietnam contributed to the success of the antiwar movement in preventing a full-scale U.S. invasion of Nicaragua or El Salvador.

During the 1980s, anti-intervention and anti-nuclear activists who distributed peace literature to military personnel noticed widespread sympathy in the lower ranks. I helped produce the *About Face* newspaper for GIs, and worked with veterans to educate activists in Europe and the Philippines on reaching GIs. This was possible because the military allows personnel one copy of literature. Department of Defense Directive 1325.6 Sec 3.5 still today states that "the mere possession of unauthorized printed material may not be prohibited…. The fact that a publication is critical of government policies or officials is not, in itself, a ground on which distribution may be prohibited."

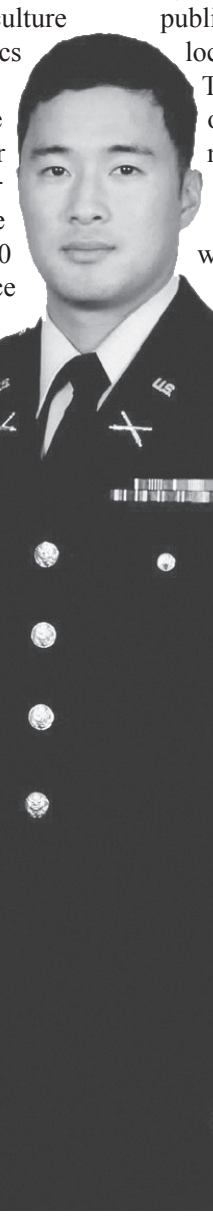
> A major change since the Vietnam and Gulf wars is that personnel now have access through the Internet to alternative sources of information. . .

During 1983 women's peace actions against the deployment of nuclear missiles from a New York army depot, women who dialogued with Military Police were told by an MP officer: "My men are scared and confused. They want to come down and kill all of you. But they also want to come down and join all of you." His statement summed up the contradictory 'dual consciousness' within many soldiers, who may be open to dialogue with activists respectfully encouraging the positive part of their hearts and minds.

The 1991 Gulf War helped the Pentagon to overcome the 'Vietnam Syndrome,' by presenting a sanitized video-game image of war, focused on a dehumanized Arab enemy. Military dissent became very difficult to express under these circumstances (with the exception of brave individual refusers such as Jeff Paterson). As national associate director of the Committee Against Registration and the Draft, I was involved in a project to produce a cassette for GIs. The war ended too quickly for dissent to come out into the open, but the peace movement's campaign for "sanctuary" for military resisters briefly made some headway. After the Gulf War, the Clinton Administration's repeated bombings of Iraq, Serbia, and other countries created a public impression that warfare bore little if any cost for U.S. military forces.

This historic complacency ended with 9/11, the invasion of Afghanistan, and occupation of Iraq. Military enlistees began to realize again that signing up and re-upping had real-life consequences, and recruitment became more difficult. The Pentagon's stop-loss policy forced Iraq War veterans and reservists back to the frontlines, angering even the most pro-war personnel and families. A major change since the Vietnam and Gulf wars is that personnel now have access through the Internet to alternative sources of information and resources. The Internet was an important factor in Lt. Watada's self-education, and it can be used by the military community to dialogue about the war and conditions outside official channels (since military culture intimidates most internal critics into silence).

Opposition within the military is far higher after three years of the Iraq War than it was three years into the Vietnam War. More than 8,000 personnel have deserted since the war began (according to *USA Today*), about 400 of whom have gone to Canada. The capture of Saddam and death of Zarqawi have ironically weakened Bush's case that our troops need to stay to "protect" Iraqis against their will. With about a dozen refusals to deploy, and a recent Zogby poll that shows 72 percent of troops stationed in Iraq support a withdrawal within a year, the military resistance will only grow. But resisters need public support, particularly from their local communities.



Some media expressed surprise that Lt. Watada refused deployment so soon after the Olympia protests against armored vehicle shipments from his Stryker Brigade. Yet soldiers and antiwar protesters have something very crucial in common: they both take the war seriously, and take risks because of it. At a June 2 ceremony marking the Stryker deployment, Fort Lewis Commander Lt. Gen. James Dubik observed that "Less than 1 percent of the nation is carrying 100 percent of the burden of this war." As Lt. Watada agreed five days later, "Soldiers who come back from Iraq say they get the impression many people don't know a war is going on; they say even friends and family seem more involved in popular culture and *American Idol*. People are not interested in the hundreds of Iraqis and the dozens of Americans dying each week." But resisters need public support, particularly from their local communities. On June 16, Tacoma's United Methodist Church opened its doors as a sanctuary for military personnel.

When soldiers see hundreds of people in the street protesting the war, they can realize (whether they agree with the message or not) that at least the protesters are interested and care that there's a war on, and are sacrificing some comfort and daily routine because of the war. In this way, visible antiwar actions can spread the "burden" to a wider circle, and help build a bridge to military personnel and their families, but only if the protesters also open a respectful dialogue with them.

Zoltan Grossman is a member of the faculty in Geography and Native Studies at Evergreen: http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz A

Lt. Ehren Watada fulfills pledge to refuse illegal deployment

Fort Lewis, WA - U.S. Army 1st Ltt Ehren K. Watada reported to duty at 2:00 a.m., Thursday, June 22, and refused orders to move to the adjacent McChord Air Force Base to prepare to fly to Iraq. Lt. Watada believes that the war and occupation in Iraq are illegal, and thus participation in the war is also illegal. At this time he has been restricted to base and has been ordered to have no communication with non-military personnel.

Lt. Watada's attorney Eric Seitz said,

I am whole-heartedly opposed to the continued war in Iraq, the deception used to wage this war, and the lawlessness that has pervaded every aspect of our civilian leadership.
Ehren Watada

"This morning Lt. Watada has been restricted to base without any actual charges or proper process. By placing a complete gag order on Lt. Watada, the military has again shown that their first concern is silencing Lt. Watada's speech in opposition to the illegal war in Iraq. We will immediately challenge these highly questionable and improper restrictions." Mr. Seitz is currently the only non-military person authorized to have any contact with Lt. Watada.

Lt. Watada is the first commissioned officer to publicly refuse deployment to the war in Iraq. By refusing to participate in the on-going Iraq war and occupation, Lt. Watada joins a growing number of high ranking military officers, West Point graduates, and current and former members of the armed services who have expressed their opposition to the actions of the United States in Iraq. Lieutenant Watada's refusal comes in the wake of a series of charges and convictions against lower ranking soldiers for participation in war-related crimes: 9 Marines charged with premeditated murder yesterday, charges of a massacre in Haditha, Iraq and convictions at Abu Ghraib Prison.

Lt. Watada faces possible court-martial charges for refusing to participate in the Iraq war and occupation and intends to defend himself based on the illegality of the Iraq war and occupation. Lt. Watada, age 28, was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii where he enlisted in the Army and was obligated to serve on active duty as an Army officer for a term of three years concluding on December 3, 2006. Lt. Watada was stationed at Ft. Lewis in January 2006, when he first asked to resign his commission because as he stated, "I am whole-heartedly opposed to the continued war in Iraq, the deception used to wage this war, and the lawlessness that has pervaded every aspect of our civilian leadership."

On June 27, a national day of action in support of Lt. Watada and coordinated through the website www.ThankYouLt.org took place in dozens of US cities, including: Ft. Lewis, WA; Tacoma, WA; Honolulu, HI; Charlotte, NC; Cleveland, OH; Harrisburg, PA; San Francisco, CA; Oklahoma City, OK; Atlanta, GA; Corvallis, OR; Medford, OR; New York City, NY; and Pittsburgh, PA.

Lt. Watada's mother, Carolyn Ho, who flew in from Honolulu, Hawaii to support her son, said today, "My son's decision to refrain from deploying to Iraq comes through much soul-searching. It is an act of patriotism. It is a statement to all Americans, to men and women in uniform, that they need not remain silent out of fear, that they have the power to turn the tide of history: to stop the destruction of a country and the killing of untold numbers of innocent men, women, and children. It is a message that states unequivocally that blindly following orders is no longer an option. My son, Lt. Watada's stance is clear. He will stay the course. I urge you to join him in this effort."

Judy Linehan of Military Families Speak Out said, "As the mother of an officer who deployed to Iraq with Lt Ehren Watada's Stryker Brigade in their first mission, I know the human cost of war intimately. I stand in solidarity with Lt Watada as he breaks ranks with a Commander-in-Chief who has flouted international law with impunity in the prosecution of this illegal war and occupation of an unarmed country. The lieutenant's quiet resolve and quest for truth facing into our government's fabricated deceptions carry hope to a world that trusts in the rule of law. Thank you, Lt Watada, for your courageous stand."

June 25, 2006 -- Vigil in support of Lt. Ehren Watada on Fourth Avenue bridge in Olympia. Photo by Carrie Lybecker.

Statement from Ehren Watada

(June 7, 2006) - Family, friends, members of the religious community, members of the press, and my fellow Americans—thank you for coming today.

My name is Ehren Watada. I am a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and I have served for 3 years.

It is my duty as a commissioned officer of the United States Army to speak out against grave injustices. My moral and legal obligation is to the Constitution and not those who would issue unlawful orders. I stand before you today because it is my job to serve and protect those soldiers, the American people, and innocent Iraqis with no voice.

It is my conclusion as an officer of the Armed Forces that the war in Iraq is not only morally wrong but a horrible breach of American law. Although I have tried to resign out of protest, I am forced to participate in a war that is manifestly illegal. As the order to take part in an illegal act is ultimately unlawful as well, I must as an officer of honor and integrity refuse that order.

The war in Iraq violates our democratic system of checks and balances. It usurps international treaties and conventions that by virtue of the Constitution become American law. The wholesale slaughter and mistreatment of the Iraqi people with only limited accountability is not only a terrible moral injustice, but a contradiction to the Army's own Law of Land Warfare. My participation would make me party to war crimes. Normally, those in the military have allowed others to speak for them and act on their behalf. That time has come to an end. I have appealed to my commanders to see the larger issues of our actions. But justice has not been forthcoming. My oath of office is to protect and defend America's laws and its people. By refusing unlawful orders for an illegal war, I fulfill that oath today.

Update from Watada's attorney

Eric Seitz

On June 22nd, when 1st Lt. Ehren Watada refused to board a bus to accompany his Army unit to Iraq, he courageously became the first active duty US officer to disobey an order to serve in a war which he and many other active duty, retired, and reserve military personnel have characterized as illegal and immoral.

Reportedly some eight thousand American soldiers have taken refuge in Canada, and a growing number of conscientious objectors and resistors are in military confinement facilities or facing charges for their refusals to serve in Iraq. In Britain lst Lt. Malcolm Kendall-Smith was sentenced to serve eight months after his position of conscientious was rejected by the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair. The tide is rising as more and more of the people who are expected and relied upon to fight this horrendous war are simply refusing to do so.

It is my privilege and honor to represent Lt. Watada. If and when the Army brings charges against him we will vigorously defend him and demonstrate that the action he has taken is not only the correct legal and moral position but that it is one that is supported by a great majority of people in the United States and around the world who understand that the U.S. invasion of Iraq is not and never could be justified.

Photo by Carrie Lybecker

June 27, 2006 -- Lt. Watada's father and step-mother speak to a crowd of about 200 supporters outside the gates of Fort Lewis.

War, protesters, and the Longshoremen:

Can the labor and peace movements stem fascism?

Eric Chase

Olympia, Washington is once again in the international spotlight. Having been the focus of much media attention in the past few years with stories of Rachel Corrie and Captain James Yee, the Olympia City Council's stand on making the capital city a nuclear free zone and uninviting the USS Olympia, a nuclear powered submarine, into the port, to the recent Green Scare grand jury investigations into environmental direct action, Olympia seems to be the hot bed of anti-establishment, or at least of anti-US foreign and domestic policy and probably not a very likely candidate of a presidential visit any time soon.

Most recently, Olympia has made international news with its port protests focusing on the loading of military cargo in its relatively small port. Once considered the hub of liberalism in the northwest (arguably leftism, being the home of the famous/infamous Evergreen State College), Olympia is also known as the hippest town in the west. Nearby Fort Lewis and home of the Stryker brigade is often seen as a thorn in the side of this very progressive town.

In the past few years, Olympia has also witnessed the increasing use of its port to send military gear to the Iraq War. Much to the chagrin of many of the local residents, many of whom are vehemently opposed to the war, or just don't particularly like armored military vehicles convoying through their quirky hip downtown, this capital city of a bit over 55,000 people has become an unwelcoming staging ground for a war that many now realize is illegal and immoral.

The latest port protest resulted in the arrests of more than thirty people and the condemnation of several of its council members for being present at the demonstrations, one intervening when club wielding sheriff's deputies went after onlookers and another, a health care worker, was administering first aid to those who had been peppersprayed. But the real issue at stake may be missed by many in the peace movement: can organized labor and the peace movement work together to stop American Fascism?

...the union that threatened to shut down the ports in solidarity with the prisoners in Seattle during the WTO protests, passed no less than four resolutions condemning the Bush Administration and calling for the immediate end of the war Iraq.

This war, this war against terrorism, this war in Iraq, this war in Afghanistan, this coming war in Iran, is only one symptom of a larger issue… Global power, hegemony, fascism. While buzzwords are often thrown around without regard to meaning or reference, fascism has certain aspects that many can agree on.

- The combination of state, corporate and military power over the democratic process.
- Absolute rule in which critics are labeled as anti-patriotic, criminal or terrorist.
- The imprisonment of those critics.
- The normalization of state terror and torture.
- The consolidation of centralized power.
- The legislation of social behaviors and beliefs at the highest levels.
- The military taking over key industries and social institutions in the name of national security.

While we can see examples of all the above and much more can be added to the list, the last aspect, the militarization of key industries and social institutions can be seen when examining the ports of the US. In 2002, the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen Union or Longshoremen (ILWU) was engaged in contract negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), a conglomeration of multinational corporations that run the shipping of most of the west coast ports. Some of the sticking points of this negotiation was the PMAs desire to automate away many ILWU jobs, and decrease benefits and pensions. The ILWU agreed to operate on a day to day contract while negotiations were under way. But in a stealthy move, the PMA decided to lock out the workers.

While complaining that goods were rotting on the docks, the PMA crafted the news to interpret this as a strike by the ILWU when in fact the ILWU willing to continue to work under the old contract so long as negotiations were continued. Then the PMA claiming to be victims of this fabricated strike asked the Bush administration to step in. Under the Taft-Hartley Act, the Bush administration "forced" the Longshoremen back to work, which is what the ILWU wanted to do all along, and further threatened to nationalize the ports and have the National Guard and the US Navy scab on the ILWU. Bush referred to the lockout as an ILWU strike and much of the mainstream media followed suit.

This is the crux of the ILWU predicament. The Bush administration has so far militarized the borders of the US and Mexico with the National Guard and has done a fair shaking up our airports as well. What better way to destroy the most progressive, if not radical, of the big unions than to declare a national emergency and use the military to replace the union? The ILWU is seen by many as the standard by which many unions should operate: pay is high, and benefits and retirement are exceptional compared to the rest of the US workforce. They have a decent democratic process and are on the low end of hierarchical labor models.

At the ILWU's 33rd International Convention, the union that refused to load ships to Japan in solidarity with the people of China, whom Japan just attacked prior to WWII, the union who refused to load military ships heading for Vietnam during our invasion of that country, the union who refused to load ships heading for aparthied South Africa, the union who shut down the ports for a day in solidarity with Mumia Abu Jamal, the union who threatened to shut down the ports in solidarity with the prisoners in Seattle during the WTO protests, passed no less than four resolutions condemning the Bush Administration and calling for the immediate end of the war Iraq.

So, as an international union, the ILWU has come out against the war. Then why in Olympia was there friction between some of the protesters and the local union? On one level we have to acknowledge the local's democratic

Sidewalk Poem

Resist

[*These words were written in sidewalk chalk on the cement at the Port Plaza on the night of May 31, 2006.*]

Torture of prisoners
civilians taken prisoner
minors held at Guantanamo
people held without charges
for years
civilians murdered by marines
journalists killed
women raped
we don't count those we've killed
(but they will haunt us anyway)
AND our sons
and daughters
mothers fathers
brothers sisters
bravely dead
mutilated, sick
not for freedom
but for oil, money and control of
the Middle East
and we have given our rights away
signed over our freedom
to help liars
with every tank of gas
every tax dollar
every time we change the station
because we are tired of hearing
bad news
we are complicit as though we
have tortured a prisoner
or killed a child
with our own hands
don't go quietly
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structure. Not all of the Olympia ILWU are against the war. While many are, they most certainly have a considerable number who have familial and political ties with nearby Fort Lewis. They also have admitted that they have been able to allow more people to join the ILWU because of the increased business from military shipments. Others will bring up the point that the federal government is more than willing to load those ships with the military and bypass the ILWU, so why shouldn't the Longshoremen get paid union wages for doing work that will get done anyways. Many have seen this as nothing more than a deal with the Devil.

So what is the solution? Most certainly, peace protesters want to stop shipments from going to the war machine. In lieu of that, perhaps make enough racket to be heard over the din of war drums in an effort to rally more anti-war actions and activism. What does the ILWU want? Most certainly to survive, to survive a very real threat at destroying perhaps the most powerful union in the country. Where is the common ground? Perhaps it is stopping not just the war in Iraq, but the larger war against poverty, immigrants, labor, the environment, and everything else this system is intent on destroying. Aside from passing resolutions, what will the ILWU (and I might add other unions as well) do about this? To address this multifaceted war against democracy itself, we can't allow those shipments to continue nor can we allow the militarization of our ports. The peace movement and the labor movement (as well as environmentalists, immigration rights activists, homeless rights activists…) need to sit down and strategize and not hurl insults at potential allies when we've got enough enemies at the gate.

Stand-off at the Port of Olympia gate

Lindsay Adams

On May 30, twenty-two people were arrested at one of the largest turnouts in protest of the shipment of Stryker brigades from the Port of Olympia.

That evening, a group of 60-70 protesters marched from the Shell station on State and Plum to the gates of the Port of Olympia. As protesters approached, the gates were shut and more police arrived from both the Olympia Police Department and the Thurston County Sheriffs Department.

One of the peaceful demonstrators,, Tanya Kinigstein, described what happened next. "They were shaking the gate enough and then it fell over, or was pushed to the side, because I don't think it was locked. Maybe 20 protesters ran to the front and laid down, linking and overlapping and shit."

Law enforcement began pepper-spraying those on the ground and the large crowd around them. Sixteen men and women were arrested for peacefully lying in the street. One of the sixteen was Andrew Yankee, "I laid down next to a friend of mine and his face was stepped on by a police officer smashing his glasses, and he was dragged off before me at which point they rubbed his face into the ground and were pounding on him as he was down."

After the pepper spraying, many protesters report asking individual police officers for their badge numbers without any response whatsoever from the officers.

After those who had been arrested were hauled into the police van, a stand-off ensued between the police and 200-300 protesters. During this time, Evergreen faculty Steve Niva grabbed a bullhorn and gave a teach-in to a crowd of demonstrators who circled around. A loud cheer erupted after Niva expressed his personal feelings about the War in Iraq: "All respect from me for men and women fighting in Iraq for them doing the job that's been assigned to them. From me, no respect for the job they've been assigned to do".

As the crowd listened attentively to Niva, police lined up in full riot gear behind a metal chain they had assembled to keep protesters out.

As crowd listened attentively to Niva, police lined up in full riot gear behind a metal chain they had assembled to keep protesters out. Within the next 20 minutes a large red container was moved with a forklift to the chain in order to further block out all activists from entering. Many people sitting near the chain were ordered to move, otherwise they would be crushed.

Demonstrators were forced to stand as the container was moved across the chain into public space and they reacted by banging on the container in protest. Another stand-off began when protesters gathered in a large circle to decide what to do next. At the conclusion of the meeting one thing was clear, the group wanted to stay together.

For the next hour the group rallied around the fences, and as it becames clear to the police the group was not going disband, the police announced to the crowd that if they did not disperse within one minute they would be arrested and subject to chemical force.

Eight to ten minutes later, as some protesters slowly made their way towards downtown and away from the Port, others soaked their bandanas in vinegar and waited for the police to charge the gate. Organizers of the protests warned everyone that if they did not wish to be tear gassed they should leave, but most of the group stayed true to the cause.

The police, also true to their word, opened the gate, and spilled into the street. Several protesters walked towards the police, some even sat down in front of them and eventually the police started using physical and chemical force against the crowd. Protesters were hit roughly with night sticks, one man in a wheel chair who was positioned in front of an officer had the wheels of his chair kicked. Many of the protesters who tried to engage the police in conversation were either handled brutally or pepper-sprayed.

Evergreen student Adam Heckart who had been pepper-sprayed earlier expressed his distress over the treatment of protesters. "It's hard to see, a bunch of people from my class got really brutally dragged off by their hair, and they were just lying down. I think its atrocious the way the cops are treating the protesters. They are being peaceful and I think legal action should be taken."

Steve Niva: *All respect from me for men and women fighting in Iraq, for them doing the job that's been assigned to them. From me, no respect for the job they've been assigned to do.*

Yankee, who was visibly shaken from his experience Tuesday, remained enthusiastic about the activity at the Port, "I think its really important to send a message, that not only do we oppose the war on a national policy level, we oppose it in our communities everyday. We don't want our community to be a part of the war effort."

May 39, 2006 -- Protesters are pepper-sprayed as they lie on the ground inside the fallen gate at the Port of Olympia.

Many who took part in Tuesday's protest were looking forward to coming back the next day, and though they worried about the community's reaction, a short walk around downtown proved that many Olympians in the downtown area were sympathetic to their cause and eager to learn if the efforts at the port were making a difference.

Lindsay Adams is currently a student at The Evergreen State College.

Sheriff's deputies respond aggressively to peaceful protesters who lie on the ground just inside the Port gate after pulling it down. Photos by David Laren

Governor Gregoire's welfare policies questioned at Evergreen graduation

Monica Peabody

Governor Christine Gregoire was the keynote speaker at this year's graduation ceremony at the Evergreen State College. She is strange company in the list of past graduation speakers; Shirley Chisolm, Leonard Peltier, bell hooks, Winona LaDuke, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Ken Kesey, Amy Goodman, to name a few. Stranger still is Governor Gregoire's recent decision to cut the welfare benefits of children whose parents are perceived as not complying with welfare to work rules. Strangest of all is Governor Gregoire's refusal to explain or even acknowledge her decision.

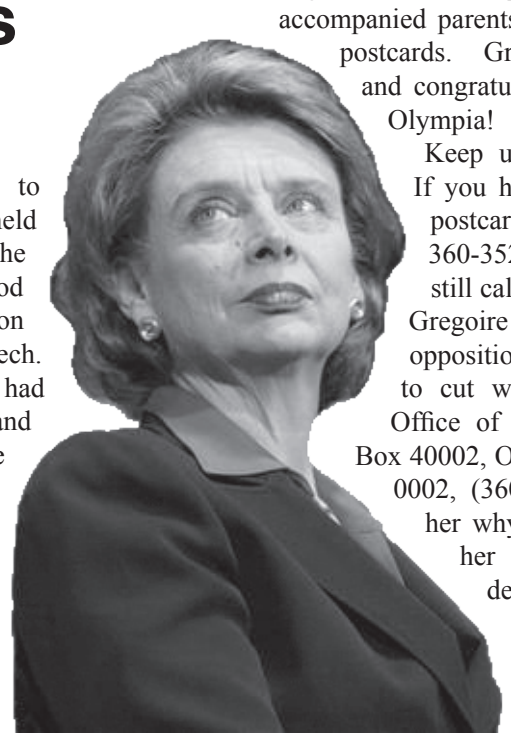
Seven graduates, both parents and nonparents, visited Les Purce to discuss their discomfort with Governor Gregoire as their graduation speaker in light of her new welfare policy decision. Several told stories of their own struggles with poverty, public benefits, single parenthood and finishing their college education. They explained how this policy change will be another barrier in the way of parents trying to leave poverty. Les Purce was receptive; he explained he could not change the graduation speaker, but did support the graduates to make their voices heard as well. And they did!

> ...nothing could have been more powerful than their silent protest. Throughout Gregoire's speech, her audience held up bright yellow signs that clearly said, I OPPOSE WELFARE CUTS TO CHILDREN.

Graduates worked with members of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition and other social justice groups to spread the word and prepare for graduation. Community members created awesome props. Graduation attendees were treated to four amazing banners, children wearing buttons asking the Governor if they needed to get a job, patches protesting Governor Gregoire's presence and a giant mailbox where you could mail your postcards to the Governor.

Graduates stressed that they did not want to disrupt the graduation or even the Governor's speech. They had worked hard for this day and had family members coming from all over to celebrate with them. But nothing could have been more powerful than their silent protest. Throughout Gregoire's speech, graduates and the people in the larger audience held up bright yellow signs that clearly said, I OPPOSE WELFARE CUTS TO CHILDREN. Midway through her speech, many of the graduates stood, turned their back to the Governor and held their signs toward the audience. They stood in silent opposition throughout her speech.

Graduates had a chance to hand Governor Gregoire postcards asking her to implement full family support as opposed to full family sanction when they walked across stage for their diploma. Children accompanied parents, also handing her postcards. Great job, graduates, and congratulations! Great job Olympia!



Keep up the good work! If you have not yet sent a postcard, call WROC at 360-352-9716. You can still call or write Governor Gregoire to voice your opposition to her decision to cut welfare to children; Office of the Governor, PO Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002, (360) 902-4111. Ask her why Holly Armstrong, her spokesperson, denied her decision to change the welfare sanction policy to include children.

Israeli Occupation Forces Punish Palestinian Civilians in the Gaza Strip

28 June -- The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) strongly condemns IOF retaliatory measures targeting Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, including the destruction of properties that are not classified as legitimate military targets. The Centre calls upon the international community, particularly the High Contracting Parties of the 4th Geneva Convention, to force IOF to respect the convention, which prohibits reprisals against protected persons, as stipulated in article 33. In addition, the convention prohibits the destruction of private properties belonging to individuals, groups, organizations or official bodies. The Centre calls upon the High Contracting Parties to enforce article 3 regarding adherence to the convention and respect of its stipulations, and to take appropriate sanctions against the serious violations currently being perpetrated.

Palestinians inspecting a bridge destroyed by Israeli army warplanes on a main road in the northern Gaza Strip, June 28, 2006. (MaanImages/Wesam Saleh)

PCHR's preliminary investigation indicates that at approximately 01:45 on Tuesday, 27 June 2006, IOF conducted a number of air raids using fighter jets and helicopter gunships on civilian installations in the Gaza Strip. The raids completely destroyed two bridges on the Gaza Valley, one on Salah El-Deen Road and the other on the coastal road. These two bridges connect the northern part of the Strip with the center and south. A secondary bridge was also destroyed. Transportation to and from the north of the Strip has been completely cut off as a result, threatening people's lives and security by depriving them access to health and educational institutions. The aerial bombardment also destroyed the main water pipe feeding Nuseirat and El-Bureij refugee camps. Furthermore, panic was caused among civilians, especially children and medical patients by bombardment, mock air raids and sonic booms over the Strip.

In addition, IOF planes bombarded the Gaza Strip's only electricity generation plant, located to the north of Nuseirat refugee camp. Key sections of the plant were completely destroyed and fires broke out throughout the plant. The bombardment has cut electricity off for nearly half the population of the Gaza Strip. The bombardment destroyed the six main generators that provide 45% of the electricity needs of the Strip. Restoring the plant and resuming its operations could take up to 6 months and at a cost of approximately $15 million US.

PCHR condemns the destruction of civilian property, which is considered to be a reprisal and collective punishment against civilians. These reprisals are in retaliation to the military operation conducted by the Palestinian resistance against a military outpost near Kerem Shalom crossing on 25 June 2006. In addition, the bombardment is a continuation of the war crimes being perpetrated by IOF against civilians, including the comprehensive siege on the Gaza Strip.

PCHR calls upon the international community to provide protection for civilian lives and property, as stipulated in International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights *is an independent legal body based in Gaza City dedicated to protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law and upholding democratic principles in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It holds Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, the Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH), and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. PCHR is a recipient of the 1996 French Republic Award for Human Rights.*

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▸ **Boycott** continued from page 1

Ralph's pharmacy is the neighborhood pharmacy for a great many people, including teenagers and low income people who may not have easy access to transportation. According to Lauren Trent, Chair of the Washington Alliance for Reproductive Choice, all pharmacies should stock EC. Given the time-sensitive nature of the drug's efficacy, "a pharmacy's decision not to stock EC ... impedes a woman's ability to take the drug within the appropriate time window, and imposes an unfair burden if she has to travel in order to obtain it." Although this is more of a burden for women in rural areas where pharmacies are more distantly spaced, even in Olympia, some of the most fragile members of our community, such as teenagers and the mentally ill, may have difficulty obtaining a drug in an unfamiliar pharmacy.

Plan B Oly, an ad hoc coalition of Olympians who want to preserve access to contraception, has called for a boycott of Ralph's Thriftway and Bayview, along with other Stormans-owned businesses starting the month of July. Inaugural picketing outside of Ralph's Thriftway began Wednesday, June 28, and may continue through July. Please check the action schedule at www.planboly.org or by email planboly@hotmail.com for more information.

Plan B Oly, an ad hoc coalition of Olympians who want to preserve access to contraception, has called for a boycott of Ralph's Thriftway and Bayview, along with other Stormans-owned businesses starting in July.

What else are you paying for when you shop at Ralph's?

Contributions to Conservative Politicians and Causes. Stormans Incorporated and Kenneth Stormans have made a number of contributions to conservative Republican politicians, including $1000 in 2004 to Dino Rossi, $250 in 2004 to James McCune, and smaller contributions to local Republicans Ira Knight, David Kent, Sam Reed, the rabidly anti-queer Valera Stevens and others. Contributions have also been made to the Thurston County Republican Central Committee, and in 2003 a $500 contribution was made to the deceptively named Workers Against Job Killing Rules Ballot Initiative Committee which would have prohibited measures to ensure more ergonomic workplace regulations to prevent work-related injuries and repetitive stress-related health problems in the workplace. Since the spotlight has been shone on Ralph's, several former workers and their friends have privately shared with me their stories of unfair workplace treatment by the Stormans.

Evangelical Christian Values. A corporations search for the name Stormans reveals that among the expected corporations (Stormans Incorporated, Stormans Properties LLC, Tumwater Rental LLC) is a surprise: Daniel's House of Prayer. Further inquiry reveals that Daniel's House of Prayer is a recently converted private home just adjacent to the Capitol campus in the South Capitol Neighborhood. According to a description of Daniel's House of Prayer on a connect.us website, the purpose "is to support and serve the community, local, state and national leaders with consistent daily prayer, hospitality and information." Ken Stormans, president of Stormans, Inc. with his wife Lynn Stormans serves as Chairman of the Board of this non-profit corporation. Daniel's House of Prayer's Board of Directors includes Bob Higley, a former lobbyist. Higley is closely allied with the "Faith and Freedom Network," the chief sponsors of the recent failed referendum to ban gay marriages that was promoted by Tim Eyman. The group was actively circulating petitions for the failed referendum, R-65. The house is owned by Diana and Thomas Wakefield, and Diana Wakefield also serves as the Director of Administrations and is the Director of Prayer Ministries at Westwood Baptist Church. Westwood Baptist Church, to which at least some of the members of the Stormans family belong, was actively engaged in soliciting signatures for the failed R65.

Diana Wakefield has also been associated with the National Day of Prayer, affiliated with Focus on the Family, which supports legislation to ban gay marriage and stop abortion. A rumor was circulating in the South Capitol neighborhood that Daniel's House of Prayer was used as a place to "pray against gay marriage." In a telephone interview, Diana Wakefield vehemently denied that this was the case. "We are not praying against anything," she insists. "We are praying for blessings for that neighborhood, for our leaders, for our church communities, and for our faith communities. ... yet, of course, we have personal convictions." She maintains that Daniel's House of Prayer is not involved with lobbying, has no legislative agenda, and indeed, is not affiliated with a particular denomination, with "eight churches ... represented on the board." However, active church-based lobbying groups have recently published the house as a destination for their constituents to visit, including the Christian Home School Network, Citizens for Community Values, the Faith and Freedom Network, Washington Evangelicals for Responsible Government, and CONECT.

Other questions have arisen regarding the presence of a house of worship in a residential neighborhood. Georgia Sabol, Code Enforcement officer for the City of Olympia, issued a warning, or "courtesy" letter, to Daniel's House of Prayer on 3/23/06, in response to complaints from neighbors who are dismayed to see non-residential use being made of houses in a neighborhood they wish to protect as residential. The condition cited in this letter was that a single family residence had been converted to "a place of worship or fraternal organization." According to Sabol, no lobbying is taking place at the house, but "They are providing a place for either representatives or anybody in government to come for support or prayer, in real small groups of two or three. They don't have a minister. They are not doing services." In a meeting with Code Enforcement on Thursday, June 22, Board Members of Daniel's House of Prayer were given an application for a conditional use permit, which would only be granted following review by the planning section of community planning and development. Jeanne Marie Thomas, President of the Board of the South Capitol Neighborhood Association, emphasized in a telephone interview that her association is working hard to preserve the South Capitol neighborhood as a residential neighborhood and historic district. Although she stated that if "Daniel's House of Prayer is used in a nonresidential way, we will have a concern about that," she has talked to Diana Wakefield and feels that "she is reaching out and wants to bridge whatever gaps exist."

One existing gap is the question of whether or not the house is currently being used as a residence. One South Capitol resident who did not wish to be identified by name noted that cars arrive and park near the house around 9 a.m. in the morning and leave around 5 p.m. Earlier in the year, office hours were posted on the door of the residential home. Diana Wakefield explained that "when I posted office hours, it was for the workmen who were working there, and it was to let them know when I would be on site to facilitate the work." Wakefield told me that the building is currently occupied by a tenant, but declined to give "her" name. In talking with another South Capitol neighbor, however, she used the male pronoun to describe the tenant of the house. A third neighbor was told recently by a woman who identified herself as Diana Wakefield that she herself was living in the house; this occurred almost immediately after the meeting with the City of Olympia's Code enforcement officer. Although Wakefield states that Daniel's House of Prayer is eager to work with the city and neighborhood in a transparent manner to ensure that land use codes are met and the neighborhood character is preserved, these inconsistencies raise additional questions about how profits from Storman-owned corporations are being used.

Because Stormans has decided to exert its evangelical Christian value system through their spheres of influence in the grocery and pharmacy businesses they own, progressive community dollars are going to support a conservative political agenda without the direct consent of community members. It's nice to shop locally, but how different is Stormans from Wal*Mart in this case?

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Critical Time For Mumia Abu-Jamal

Marco Rosaire Rossi

Since 1982, journalist and political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal has been incarcerated for the murder of police officer Daniel Faulkner. Abu-Jamal has claimed his innocence, and a massive mountain of evidence has accumulated to support this claim - including the testimony of Arnold Beverly. In 2001, Beverly signed a sworn affidavit claiming that he was the true murderer of Daniel Faulkner and was hired as a hit man to get rid of Faulkner for his meddling in affairs between the mob and a particularly crooked clique of the Philadelphia Police Department. Despite this compelling evidence, officials have ignored Beverly's statement and Abu-Jamal remains locked-up.

The global effort to free Mumia Abu-Jamal is about to enter it's 25th and quite possibly its final year. Mumia's legal team, headed by Robert R. Bryan, has until July 13th to file a petition with the U.S. Court of Appeals Third Circuit that rejects a move by the prosecution to put Mumia back on death row. The Pennsylvania prosecutor's office has been seeking to void the decision by a lower court a few years ago that took Abu-Jamal off of death row. The governor of Pennsylvania, Edward Rendell, has made public statements confirming that he will sign a death warrant if the prosecution is successful. If that happens, then - aside from an unlikely intervention from the United States Supreme Court - Mumia Abu-Jamal will only have 90 days before he is executed by the state of Pennsylvania.

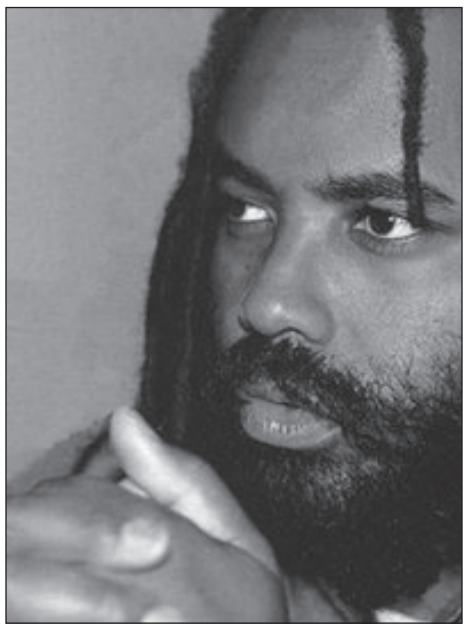
At the same time the defense is seeking to squash the prosecution's petition, it is requesting a new trial. The request for a new trial focuses on three major constitutional issues: 1) that there was a racist and illegal exclusion of 11 of the 14 black jurors; 2) that comments made by prosecutor Joseph McGill to the jury, including a statement that they need not concern themselves with the strict standard of beyond a reasonable doubt because Abu-Jamal would receive "appeal after appeal," was a violation of *Caldwell v. Mississippi*; and 3) that there was extreme judicial bias during Abu-Jamal's 1995 Post Conviction Relief Act hearing by "the hanging" Judge Albert Sabo. Sabo, who also presided over Mumia's trial in 1982 and essentially reviewed his own conduct during the 1995 Post Conviction Relief Act hearing, was overheard saying "Yeah, and I'm going to help 'em fry the nigger" to another judge by a court reporter.

> The choices before the Third Circuit are literally freedom or death for Mumia Abu-Jamal, and its difficult to know which way they will sway.

Bryan feels confident that the Third Circuit will grant a new trial on arguments in the brief and that the prosecution's effort to get Abu-Jamal back on death row will fail, but has cautioned supporters against thinking that this means that the fight for Mumia's freedom is coming to an end. Bryan told reporters at a press conference early this month that nothing is certain in this present political climate. The choices now before the Third Circuit are literally freedom or death for Mumia Abu-Jamal, and its difficult to know which way they will sway.

The appeals come at a time when Mumia Abu-Jamal's case has again received international attention. In October 2003, Mumia Abu-Jamal was awarded the status of honorary citizen of Paris for his work toward social justice and the abolishment of the death penalty. In France, the death penalty has been abolished since 1981. Recently another city in France, the city of Saint-Denis, named a major street leading to the Nelson Mandela Stadium, Mumia Abu-Jamal Street. Frustrated by the fact that "freedom fries" hasn't caught on like they hoped, conservatives in the U.S. are looking to condemn France again for its support for Mumia Abu-Jamal. In May, two Pennsylvania members of the U.S. Congress, Democrat Allyson Schwartz and Republican Michael Fitzpatrick, appeared at a Fraternal Order of Police press conference to announce their introduction of Congressional Resolution #407: a resolution that denounces Saint-Denis for its decision.

This is a critical time for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Over the years, his case has amassed support from all over the world including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the NAACP, the National Lawyers Guild, the Japanese Diet, the European Parliament, several U.S. trade union federations, many churches and religious orders, and many more. All these organizations believe that Mumia's first trial was a farce, and have struggled to get him another. Even though much attention is on the Third Circuit, in the end, the decision of whether or not Mumia Abu-Jamal will be set free or is



executed is with the people of the world. If they can continue to create enough consciousness about the injustices in Mumia Abu-Jamal's case the courts will be forced to comply.

Dear Friends

by Craig Oare

It's my fate or fortune to be off work
today,
and here are a few jumbled jottings:
It's the end of May, a warm Wednesday,
my sister's anniversary,
the morning after the evening
when we walked down our westside hill
and she took some striking photos
of the Stryker ship at the Port of Olympia.
It looked like something from Star Wars,
a big Death Star war boat
juxtaposed with a postcard image
of Rainier in its summer glory.
One of the cranes from that angle
resembled monstrous alligator jaws,
loading lethal equipment bound
for the oil fields of Armageddon.
I'd planned to rest my aching foot,
but I've got to go down there today.
I smile for at least a few moments
as I walk on West Bay Drive--
our redwood radical friend Remedy
has posted those photos on indymedia.
Hey Bonnie, we did good on that one.
The headlines adorn the downtown
corners:
PORT PROTESTS ESCALATE.
I limp along the creaking boardwalk
past dogwalkers and marina boaters.
A gray lawyer bustles by,
muttering to someone about suing
someone.
The ship looks green and gray too,
the US Navy's Pomeroy,
and when I take off my sunglasses
it's even worse, a kind of corpse-like
green.
A sign reads: Port Plaza, Waterfront
Festival
and Community Gathering Place.
A crane is labeled Starport--
like I said, the Death Star!
Seagulls, sailboats, a KING-TV truck,
but the protesters and the officers
still seem to be catching up on sleep
after last night's "waterfront festival."
A sudden chill as two cops pass by,
then put on a smiley PR routine
with some old folks and their ribboned
poodle.
I see a guy in a wheelchair,
a grizzled patriot with a sad little flag
out at the end of the dock alone.
Now a Coast Guard patrol boat
with, my god, machine guns fore & aft,
drifts over and they talk to him,
and apparently order him away.
As I leave to go get too much coffee,
I pass by a chattering cellphone girl,
elbows on her purple chakra book,
picking up those cosmic vibes
in the last days of the empire.
Then I stand in Otto's long line
and talk to an Earth First! guy.
His spirit soars on days like this.
I think of those poodle-playing cops--
they will not play with this young man,
and I can only say, hey, take care.
It starts to drizzle as I head back.
The holy mountain will not be out today,
and our spectacle will lack that surreal
detail.
I walk by a statue called Motherhood,
and I realize I've never really seen it.
She cradles her tiny infant
with the death ship close behind,
and seems to say: Oh no, not this one,
you'll never take this child.
Another sign: Welcome to Port Plaza,
with, you've got to be kidding me,
a picture of a curly-tailed pig!
I'm not making this up, folks,
I'm looking at an official Port of Oly
insignia of a pig--as more police arrive,
keeping an eye on the protest signs
that wait for their bearers to claim them.
The signs say Get Out of Iraq,
Get Out Of Our Town,
No More Lying & Spying.
It's still early, so I go for lunch
at a place called the Dockside Deli.
I sip on a corporate cola
and think about the revolution.
It's been a long time coming,
as the old song goes. Who sang that?
Sigh.
Large people with small dogs go by,
they look like mortality is close behind,
but the draft-age boy at the next table--
may the gods grant that *he* outlives me.
He's calling an ad for a motorcycle,
muscles filling his football t-shirt.
Maybe I should speak to him, but I don't.
As I head back toward the killing
machine,
I see playground kids laughing and crying
on their bright little swings and slides.
What will become of their lives,
as they cook in the filth of our abundance
in the ruins of the natural world?
That's enough for now of humanity,
I need to find a big tree.
I'll rest a while on a quiet trail,
and we'll see what happens later.

[Written 5/31/06.]

Fair Trade makes a difference

Multiple state effort for sweatshop-free public purchases

South Sound Clean Clothes Coalition is initiating an effort to encourage Governor Gregoire to join a multi-state effort started by Maine Governor Baldacci to have state clothing and uniform purchases from sweatshop-free sources. Governor Baldacci sent a letter to the other governors stating: "Young women and children work long hours for poverty wages in inhumane conditions until they are worn out and unemployable. These abuses cause untold human suffering and economic and political volatility across the globe."

The turning point on recycling came when states joined that effort. Providing for large quantities of sweatshop free clothes can keep items competitive and make sweatshop-free clothes available to consumers.

Dick Meyer, Coordinator with the South Sound Clean Clothes Coalition and the Washington State effort points out, "the record of sweatshops around the world with forced labor or intolerable working conditions have led to many deaths and illnesses. This last February between 80 and 200 workers at a Bangladesh sweatshop were killed in a fire with employees locked in the building. Throughout the sweatshop industry there have been severe assaults on human rights and dignity. Fear and the race to the bottom with shop closures have created many victims.

"However, the public purchasing of clothes from sweatshop-free sources by states will expand the opportunities. Local retail stores would make sweatshop free options available to consumers much like fair-traded coffee is available now in local grocery stores.

"Most people do not want to wear clothes made in sweatshops but do not feel they have many purchasing options available. This campaign to enlist State of Washington support in this multi-state effort can make the difference. We are now asking people to join this effort."

For information or to volunteer: e-mail: info@southsoundcleanclothes.org, phone: 360 705-2819

Confronting prison rape

Marco Rosaire Rossi

Prison rape demonstrates an intense paradox in our society. In one respect, prison rape is extremely open. For the most part the general public is ignorant about many of the realities of life behind bars, but it is common knowledge that rape does occur and occurs regularly. The topic is featured in movies, books, televisions shows, and even in jokes. In another respect, prison rape is completely invisible. Very few institutions take meaningful measures to prevent it, and some flat-out deny that it happens at all. Of course this dynamic works to perpetuate the crime. The normality aspect of prison rape allows perpetrators off the hook. People expect it, so there is no reason to take occurrence of it seriously. In addition, the invisibility aspect of prison rape leaves the survivors without support and the perpetrators unaccountable.

Fortunately, there are people working to resolve this contradiction. Last year, the United States Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released its first ever report on prison sexual abuse, and the next one for this year is underway. The report was mandated by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003. prea is the first effort by the federal government to address the problem and calls on states to develop zero tolerance policies toward prisoner sexual abuse.

The shame and fear that accompanies the survivors of rape makes it difficult to get an accurate picture of the situation from numbers alone. Underreporting is inevitable, and acknowledged by the BJS's final analysis: "Administrative records alone cannot provide reliable estimates of sexual violence…Due to fear of reprisal from perpetrators, a code of silence among inmates, personal embarrassment, and lack of trust in staff, victims are often reluctant to report incidents to correctional authorities."

Despite these shortcomings, the report does reveal some very interesting information on the nature of prison rape and the role institutions have played in perpetuating it. For example, the report has concluded that more than 44% of documented prisoner-on-prisoner rape occured in Texas. Texas has the second largest prison population in the country (California is the first) and notoriously poor conditions. Andrea Cavanaugh from Stop Prison Rape—the only organization in the nation solely devoted to ending prisoner sexual assault—doesn't find the number surprising. The majority of letters the organization receives are from the Lone Star State.

Texas is not the only state that has developed a disgraceful reputation. In May of 2005, Detroit News published a report on the ongoing sexual abuse of female prisoners in Michigan. The report was able to collect stories dating back twenty years and reveals gruesome accounts of abuses of power by guards and willful neglect by the administration. These incidents caused Michigan to come under criticism from the Michigan Women's Commission and Human Rights Watch. Human Rights Watch twice released reports noting the high retaliation rate of prisoners who reported sexual abuse in Michigan's women's prisons.

Although reports and statistics are often the best way to develop a macro perspective of the issue, they don't tell the whole story. They are unable to explain many of the important differences that play out, depending on the gender, sexuality, and power of the people involved in the abuse. Many of these dynamics are totally foreign to anyone who isn't living or working in prisons as part of their daily lives.

In male prisons, prisoner-on-prisoner abuse is common. The culture of male prison rape encourages a "fuck-or-fight" mentality. This often compels survivors to take on the role of "punks" or "queens." In prison, a "punk" is a person who resists or feels bitter about their sexual servitude. "Queens," on the other hand, have embraced some aspects of their role and use some of their sexual power for meager advantages.

> Prisoners have poor medical facilities and the violent nature of rape leaves many prisoners seriously injured. HIV rates in prison are three times as high as on the outside.

Rape by correctional staff is more likely than prisoner-on-prisoner in female prisons. Guards, like inmate rapists in male prisons, maintain their abuse by trying to create a relationship of dependency between themselves and the survivors. They withhold benefits and privileges, such as job assignments and exercise time, from women in exchange for sexual favors. They also exploit stressful circumstances and use psychological pressure to manipulate prisoners. There have been reports of guards reviewing prisoners' personal records to see which ones have had a record of sexual abuse in the past—the belief being that those women will be easier to take advantage of while incarcerated.

The sexual abuse of transgendered prisoners is also widespread. However, because of rampant transphobia in our society, the situation of transgendered prisoners still goes under the radar for many researchers and organizations. The sociological understanding of their sexual abuse is more difficult to measure and draw firm conclusions upon.

These issues around prison sexual abuse reach new complexities when the abuses intersect with other major problems within prisons. Prisoners have poor medical facilities and the violent nature of rape leaves many prisoners seriously injured.HIV rates in prison are three times as high as on the outside. Other sexually transmitted infections, like Hepatitis C, are also extremely common. Mental health issues are widespread. Prisoners frequently struggle with drug addiction, alcoholism, trauma from previous abuse, and depression. These problems are compounded with the occurrence of post traumatic stress disorder, which often accompanies rape.

The seriousness of this issue, and the degree that it has been ignored in the past makes the PREA and the BJS's report a significant move in the right direction. Stop Prison Rape has been encouraging all prisoners to participate in the survey and share their stories. For them, breaking the silence is the first step. It is the hope that this information could be used to shed some necessary light on the topic—and in doing so, offer support to survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and enhance the rights of prisoners.

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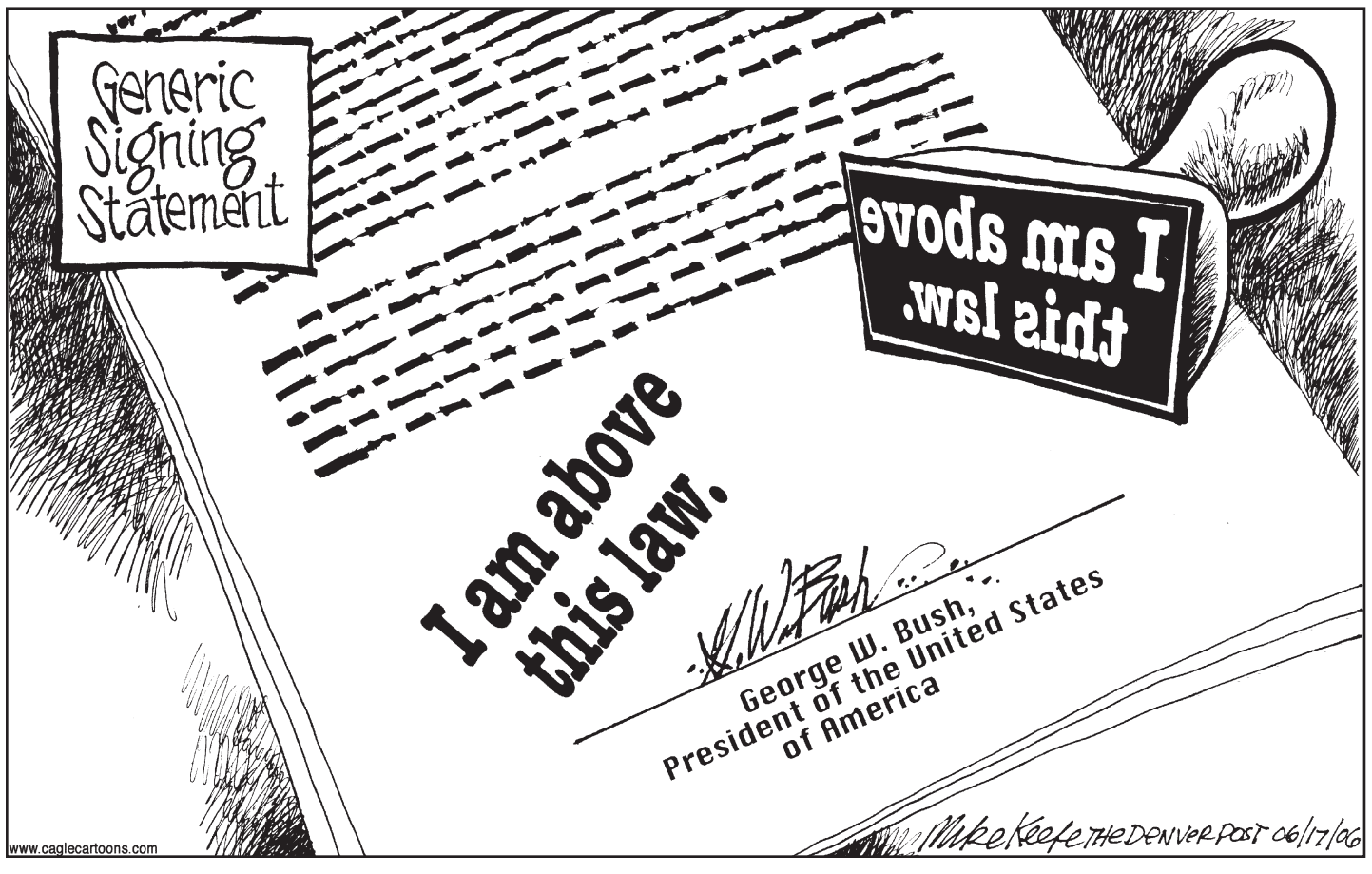
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Refuse Illegal War
I refuse to be silent any longer...
I refuse to be party to an illegal and immoral war against people who did nothing to deserve our aggression.
–U.S. Army Lt. Ehren Watada
www.
Thank You Lt.
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